



Engaged in prayer, the worshiper speaks privately to his Lord First Sermon

All praise is due to Allah Who made prayer a means of comfort for the worshipers and a delight for those who remember their Lord. I bear witness that there is no deity save Allah, having no associates. I also bear witness that our Master and Prophet Muhammad is the Servant of Allah and His Messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, his family and companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

As to what follows,

I urge you and myself, **O Servants of Allah**, to be aware that you are asked to obey Him the Most Exalted in line with His orders: “**and to establish prayer and fear Him. And it is He to whom you will be gathered.**” (Al-Anaam: ٧٢).

O Worshipers,

Prayer is a firm connection between the believer and their Lord, and an ascension for their hearts and souls. In prayer, the worshiper stands in the presence of His Lord, humbly submissive in their heart and all of their limbs, holding communion with Him. Allah the Almighty has praised such believers, for He says, “**certainly will the believers have succeeded. They who are during their prayer humbly submissive.**” (Al-Muminoon: ١-٢). The Messenger of Allah pbuh has also accentuated this fact as he said, “When the worshiper is engaged in prayer, he is speaking privately to his Lord.”

That is to say: the worshiper is speaking to his/her Lord by remembering Him and reciting His holy words, reflecting upon His Supreme status and adhering to the orders of the Most Exalted: “**and establish prayer for My remembrance.**” (Taha: ١٤). This means, to celebrate my remembrance in your prayers. So, the worshiper begins the prayer with Takbir (saying Allah is the Most Great) in line with the commands of the Most High: “**and glorify Him with [great] glorification.**” (Al-Israa: ١١١). Thus, the worshiper begins their prayer saying: Allahu Akbar, acknowledging that Allah the Almighty is greater, more exalted and higher than anything else that can come to mind, and being in His presence is greater than this world and all that which is there in it.

After Takbir, the worshiper recites Surat Al Fatiha, humbly addressing their Lord. So, they praise Him and glorify Him, seeking His mercy and hoping for His guidance. In return, Allah, the Most Exalted, responds to their prayers, grant them what they have asked for and forgive them. On this account, the Prophet pbuh said, “And if he stands to pray and praises Allah, lauds Him and glorifies Him as He deserved and shows wholehearted devotion to Him, his sins would depart leaving him (as innocent) as he was on the day his mother gave birth to him.”

Following the Fatiha, the believer recites verses from the holy Quran, contemplating on their meanings, following in this the commandments of Allah the Almighty, for He says, **“that they might reflect upon its verses and that those of understanding would be reminded.”** (Sad: ٢٩).

O Worshipers,

Having recited Allah’s words and reflected upon them, the worshiper then perform Rukua (bowing), glorifying their Lord the Most Exalted. In this, they follow the instructions of the Prophet pbuh as he said, “As for Rukua, glorify your Lord therein.” During bowing, the worshiper declares such glorification in words, glorifying their Lord and testifying His greatness and supremacy. So, they say, “Subhana Rabi Al Adheem (Glorious is my Lord the Magnificent),” repeating the phrase three times so that its meaning should settle in their heart.

As the worshiper raises his head from bowing, they say, “Allah hears him who sends his praises to Him.” This means, Allah hears the praises of His servants and responds to their prayers. In this regard, the Prophet pbuh said, “When the Imam says, ‘Allah listens to those who praise Him,’ then (all of you) say, ‘Our Lord, all the Praises are for you!’ For whoever’s saying concurs with the saying of the angels, then his past sins will be forgiven.”

The worshipers are urged, therefore, to rejoice the concurrence of their supplications with those of the angels who will be competing to record their good deeds. They do so because those words are really of great status and are generously rewarded, in addition to the high

degree that the worshiper will attain for reciting them. An evidence of this can be seen in the following Hadith when one day the Prophet pbuh was offering prayer, and as he raised his head from bowing, he said, "Allah hears him who sends his praises to Him." A man behind him said, "O our Lord! All the praises are for You, many good and blessed praises". When the Prophet pbuh completed the prayer, he said, "I saw over thirty angels competing to write it first."

O who commune with your Lord,

During prayer, the worshiper prostrates before His Lord, humbly submissive to and glorifying Him, saying, "Subhana Rabi Al Aala (Glorious is my Lord the Most High)." Saying these words is conducive to draw the worshiper nearer to their Lord, for the Exalted is He says, "**but prostrate and draw near [to Allah].**" (Al-Alaq: 19). On the same matter, the Messenger of Allah pbuh said, "The nearest the servant comes to his Lord is when he is prostrating himself (during prayer), so increase in supplication (in this state)."

More to the point, it was the tradition of our Master Muhammad pbuh to supplicate to Allah while prostrating in prayer. Amongst the supplications he used to recite was: "O Allah! Forgive all my sins, the small and the great, the first and the last, the open and the secret." He pbuh would also seek forgiveness and satisfaction of His Lord. To this, it was narrated that Sayida Aisha, may Allah be pleased with her, reported that the Prophet pbuh used to say while prostrating (in prayer), "O Allah, I seek refuge with Your pleasure from Your wrath and in Your forgiveness from Your punishment."

Another supplication that is recommended after raising up from prostration is the one that comprises all the good of this world and the Hereafter too. This gracious supplication is: "My Lord! Pardon me, have mercy on me, help me, raise my status, grant me sustenance and guide me."

Furthermore, while sitting for Tashahhud (testimony of faith) during prayer, the believer should praise Allah the Most Exalted and Sublime with the best of compliments, and call upon Him with sincere and fully devoted prayers. One should also invoke peace and blessings of Allah upon our Master Muhammad pbuh and all of the righteous servants of Allah, and then ask their Lord to grant them

whatever they wish. In this context, amongst the supplications that are recommended in the Sunna to be said after Tashahhud is the following: “O Allah! Please forgive my past and future sins and those sins which I did in secret or in public, and what I have transgressed the limit in, and what You know about me more than I do. You are the One who makes (some people) forward and (some) backward. There is none to be worshipped but you.”

Concluding the prayer, the worshiper recites the Salam after they have filled their prayer with humble submission to Allah the Almighty, contemplation on the words of His holy Book and calling upon Him privately. As such, a feeling of tranquillity and happiness fill their heart because by the time they have completed their prayer, they become as clean of sins as they were on the day they were born. As a result, the worshiper becomes pure and assured in heart, with a smile on their face in this world and a light shining on it in the Hereafter. The Messenger of Allah pbuh said, “Prayer is a light.”

Bearing this in mind, we pray to Allah the Most Merciful to illuminate our hearts with His obedience and help us to celebrate His remembrance. O Allah, we implore to You to grant us success to be grateful to Your favours and perfect in performing acts of worship.

May Allah guide us all to obey Him and obey His Messenger Muhammad pbuh and obey those He have commanded us to obey in line with His orders: “**O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you.**” (An-Nisaa: ٥٩).

May Allah direct us all to the blessings of the Glorious Quran and the Sunna of His Messenger pbuh.

I say this and ask Allah for forgiveness for me and you, so invoke Him for forgiveness, for He is the Most Forgiving, the Most Merciful.

Second Sermon

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds. I bear witness that there is no deity save Allah, having no associates. I also bear witness that our Master and Prophet Muhammad is the servant of Allah and His Messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon our

Master Muhammad, his pure family, companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

I urge you, **O Servants of Allah**, and myself to be aware that you are asked to obey Him, the Most High and Exalted.

O Worshipers,

Please know that prayer is a great pillar of Islam, one that Allah the Almighty has enjoined upon us to observe regularly on its prescribed time. The Most Exalted says, “**indeed, prayer has been decreed upon the believers a decree of specified times.**” (An-Nisaa: ١٠٣). The Messenger of Allah pbuh has also emphasised the great status of prayer and urged Muslims to be steadfast on offering it regularly. An illustration of this can be found in the following Hadith in which he pbuh said, “Allah, the Most Exalted, has made five prayers obligatory. If anyone performs ablution for them well, offers them at their (prescribed) time, and observes perfectly their bowing and submissiveness in them, it is the guarantee of Allah that He will pardon him (his misdeeds).”

We are all urged, therefore, elders and youngsters, men and women, to maintain our prayers and offer them on their decreed time. In fact, this was the advice of Messenger of Allah pbuh, for it was narrated that Ali Ibn Abu Talib, may Allah be pleased with him, said, “The last words which the Messenger of Allah pbuh spoke were: Prayer, prayer.” This is an indication to the keen interest of the Prophet pbuh that the Muslim should always be in strong bond with their Lord the Most Exalted.

That is said, please bear in mind that you are instructed to invoke peace and blessings on the Prophet pbuh. Allah, the Most Sublime, says, “**indeed, Allah confers blessing upon the Prophet, and His angels [ask Him to do so]. O you who have believed, ask [Allah to confer] blessing upon him and ask [Allah to grant him] peace.**” (Al-Ahzab: ٥٦).

On the same matter, the Prophet pbuh said, “For everyone who invokes a blessing on me will receive ten blessings from Allah.”

O Allah, please confer Your blessings and grant peace upon our Prophet Muhammad pbuh, his family and all of the companions.

May Allah be pleased with the Rightly Guided Caliphs: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali, and all of the noble Companions.

O Allah, we implore to You to continue blessing us with Your bounties, endow upon us Your favours and make us rejoice peace of mind and wellbeing. O Allah, please accept our good deeds and accept our prayers.

O Lord, may we also ask You to rewards us in multiples for our good deeds, forgive us our past and future mistakes and honour us with happiness in this world and in the Hereafter.

O Lord, please make us amongst those who are dutiful to their parents and kind to their kith and kin.

May Allah grant success to the UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and guide him to all that is good. O Allah, we also seek Your favour to grant him continued health and care. May Allah also ensure success to his Vice-President, trustworthy Crown Prince and his brothers, Their Highnesses the Rulers of the Emirates.

O Allah, please forgive all of the Muslims, men and women, living and dead. We pray to Allah to show mercy on late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum and the late UAE Sheikhs. O Lord, grant them abundant mercy and bless them with Your kindness and satisfaction. O Lord, forgive and show mercy on our parents, relatives and whoever has done a favour to us.

O Allah, may we ask You to guide us to all that may help us attain Your mercy and forgiveness and grant us rewards for our good deeds.

O Allah, we implore to You to protect us from every major sin and grant us the reward of every good deed. O Allah, we seek Your grace to make us amongst those who will win Your Paradise and save us from the Hellfire.

O Allah, we implore You at this instance not to let a sin un-forgiven, a distress unrelieved, a debt unpaid, an illness unhealed, a dead without mercy or a need unsatisfied, for You are the Most Generous and over all things Competent. Indeed, You are to prayers ever responding.

We pray to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds, to continue blessing the UAE with stability and welfare and increase it in bounties,

knowledge, civilisation, happiness, beauty and tolerance. O Allah, please continue blessing it with happiness and security.

May Allah have mercy on the honourable martyrs of our nation and gather them with the ones upon whom Allah has bestowed favour of the prophets. May Allah make the dwelling of the martyrs, their families, parents and relatives with the righteous. Indeed, You answer to the supplications.

O Allah, please grant the best reward for the families of the martyrs and offer them patience and solace. May Allah grant victory to the soldiers of the Arab Coalition who gathered to restore the rights to their owners. O Lord, please be by their side and guide the Yemeni people to everything that is good. O Allah, make them rally for the word of truth and legitimacy, and bless them with welfare and stability, O the Most Generous.

O Lord, we beseech You to bless all of the Muslim countries and the whole world with stability and peace.

Our Lord, give us in this world that which is good and in the Hereafter that which is good, and save us from the torment of the Fire. O Allah, admit us to Your Paradise with the righteous. Indeed, You are Exalted in Might and Forgiving.

O Allah, we seek Your favour to send us wealthy rain and make us not amongst those who are despondent. O Allah, relieve us! O Allah, relieve us! O Allah, give us from the blessings of the sky and grow for us from the blessings of the earth.

Remember Allah and He will remember you. Be grateful of His benevolence and He will increase His blessings to you.

Please stand up for prayer.

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Official announcement from Awqaf

To be delivered after Friday prayer ١٩/١٠/٢٠١٨

Dear Muslims,

The General Authority of Islamic Affairs and Endowments has launched audio translation of the Arabic Friday Khutba in English

and Urdu. This service is available via its application on smartphones “Awqaf”, the aim being to allow non-Arabic speaking communities in the UAE to understand and benefit from the Friday sermons.

That is said, we beseech Allah to confer His blessings and grant peace upon our Prophet Muhammad pbuh, his family and all of the companions.